
ELNA UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter published by the Esperanto League for North America 4/1999

Edited by the staff of the Central Office

PO Box 1129 • El Cerrito CA 94530 • USA

ISSN 1081-6224

UEA President in Asia

As is well known, Kep Enderby, president of the World Esperanto Association (UEA) considers the Esperanto movement in Asia to be quite important. He deeply believes that the stronger the Asian movement becomes, the stronger the world movement becomes. Therefore directly after the world congress of UEA and that of the World Non-national Association, he took part in the Asian Esperanto congress in Hanoi, Vietnam; and afterwards visited Bangkok, Thailand to present several lectures to students and professors of two Bangkok universities about the merits of Esperanto. There were also interviews with journalists and others, with excellent results. During the visit to Hanoi, members of the Vietnam Esperanto Association and members of the Vietnamese government expressed enthusiastic support of the possibility of a future World Congress happening in Vietnam. Enderby is quite sympathetic to this desire. Hanoi is planning to construct a new convention center, which will be large enough for the several thousand participants expected at such a convention. In October, Enderby again visited Asia, this time traveling through Korea and Japan for three weeks. In Korea, he participated in the Korean national Esperanto convention, and afterwards took part in the very important Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), where approximately 10,000 representatives of over 600 international NGO's met to discuss various aspects of international governance. Enderby presided over a public session dealing with "Language and Human Rights". During this session, the participants approved of the following resolution, which appears in the official reports of the Conference.

The Working Group for Language and Human Rights of the International Conference of Non-government Organizations recommends:

- 1) that the Economic and Social Council of the UN (EcoSoc) place the theme "Language and Human Rights" on the agenda for its next meeting, with the goal of discussing problems of global language policy and the denial of human rights resulting from linguistic inequality;
- 2) that this meeting consider naming a commission to explore the feasibility and practicality of an international auxiliary language;
- 3) that EcoSoc report to the General Assembly of the UN about the results of their investigation;
- 4) that the NGO's participating in this International Conference in Seoul submit the above-cited points as recommended proposals to EcoSoc and to the Millennium Forum of NGO's (which will take place May 22-26, 2000) for their attention and subsequent action.

Esperanto: the new Latin?

Between May 31 and June 4 of next year, the German Catholic Forum will meet in Hamburg with 50,000 participants expected. During previous meetings of this kind, the policy has been to avoid discussions of language problems; yet this time the agenda specifically mentioned that the Forum intended to seek solutions to the question "How can the worldwide internal communication of the Church be improved?" So for the first time in the history of these national forums, the organizers accepted a lecture and discussion about the potential of Esperanto as an ecclesiastical language. The title of the lecture is "Esperanto- the new Latin for the Church? The international language serving to promote understanding between Christians of the whole world". It is likely that the Mass will be said in Esperanto during this meeting, and that there will be an information stand about Esperanto. [from *Ret-info*]

**Please remember that it is easier for us and smoother for everybody if you
PAY FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS EARLY.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

We wish you all the best for the new year!

Old Languages Reborn

Day and night on France's windy western coast, Radio Kerne transmits a bright mix of music sprinkled with local news. It is a new station run by young people for a young audience— but with a difference.

Most of Radio Kerne's operators are volunteers, working with the zeal of missionaries. Their preferred music comes from bagpipes and flutes. And they broadcast only in Breton, a Celtic language spoken in the region for over 2,000 years, that until recently seemed doomed to disappear.

"Saving the culture is very much on people's minds," said Isig Flatres, the station manager. "This generation is no longer embarrassed about speaking or being Breton."

What is more, this language of the Druids — who did not use writing — is now out on the internet with its own websites. After being banished for more than a century from Brittany's schools, the language has found new defenders in the pro-Breton movement, whose activists are developing software, translating centuries-old texts and sending their children to new bilingual schools that teach in Breton and French.

Reflecting a growing trend in Europe, all the minority languages of France — banned after the revolution in the name of equality — are getting a new lease on life. Since the Socialist government took office in 1997, greater tolerance has allowed for more teaching of Breton, Occitan, Basque, Corsican and Alsatian in France's schools.

The change is not undisputed: President Jacques Chirac, several government ministers and the nation's highest court have weighed in on the unresolved argument over whether it is constitutional to promote a language other than French. Teaching regional languages is "an enterprise that can destroy the unity of the nation," said Maurice Druont, the head of the French Academy. "We risk pulverizing French. Why sacrifice a glorious language to local dialects?"

But the renaissance of local cultures is not limited to France.

This is one of the more intriguing side effects of a unifying Europe: as national boundaries fade within the 15-member European Union, more political power flows to Brussels and more countries beg to join the group, local cultures and languages are reasserting their strength.

And while a blanket of sameness has settled over consumer trends and styles in Europe, historians say more people are interested in protecting minority languages and asserting local differences than at any other time in this century.

Gaelic has returned to schools in Scotland, which

has gained more political power from the once highly centralized government in London. Northern Italy has courses in Friulian. Dutch radio stations broadcast in Frisian and Limburgs. "In Finland we can now get the news in Saami," said Tom Moring, a Finnish linguist.

Regionalism is perhaps strongest in Spain, where Basque is making a comeback in the north, bolstered by the local government. And in Barcelona, authorities insist on doing all official business in Catalan, which now prevails over Spanish.

"Brussels bureaucrats may try to steamroller us into oneness, but people are stubborn," said Hans Magnus Enzensberger, a German who has written often on European and regional identity. "The more global and uniform our civilization, the more people want to anchor themselves in their own culture. The fact is that Europe has a few thousand years of settled cultures—it can't simply turn into an American-type melting pot."

Some students of the trend believe the identity of Europe's ethnic groups is strengthening because anchors like religion and nationality have weakened. "Being a citizen of Europe is still rather vague, rather abstract as an identity," Moring said.

Some Europe-wide institutions are helping in the belief that grassroots movements fostering local pride are good for democracy. The Council of Europe, a 41-nation group that promotes democracy and human rights, has adopted a charter pledging to encourage the use of indigenous languages in schools, media and public life. The council says that of the 500 million or so Europeans, more than 50 million speak a local language that is not their country's official tongue.

The European Union has created the Bureau for Lesser-used Languages, which finances projects such as developing internet browsers in Welsh and cartoon books in Alsatian.

"When the media report on ethnic groups, it's usually about conflict," said Bertrand Menciassi of the language bureau. "We want to provide some balance. There's so much else going on that's very rich."

Young people have helped the language and culture to open up, which may be a key to survival, said Michel LeBris, a Breton novelist. "We now accept that our identity can have several layers," LeBris said. "We can feel European and French and Breton all at once. But the answer is to remain open. If not, you become a bastion, a Serbia." [*New York Times* Oct 17, 1999]

(The growing desire of speakers of minority languages to preserve their cultural heritage is perhaps a sign that the world is approaching the point of accepting the use of an international auxiliary language to counteract linguistic imperialism. —ed.)

New from the Book Service

ALICO EN MIRLANDO, *Lewis CARROLL*. Trans. Donald BROADRIBB. Not only a charming translation of this classic story; it is a recreation of the original, with the same drawings by John Tenniel. Even the silly poems ("You are old, Father William", "Lobster quadrille" etc.) retain their elegant silliness. Fans of Alice should greatly enjoy this. This can be an excellent way to rekindle a fondness for Alice by those who have forgotten how much fun this story is. Second edition 1999. 79p. 195x145. Paper. Russia.

ALI004 \$5.60

BEING COLLOQUIAL IN ESPERANTO (A REFERENCE GUIDE), *David K. JORDAN*. Considered an immediate classic for its depth, breadth and level of humor. Not surprisingly, the first edition sold out rather quickly; now after several years of being unavailable, it's back in print in a new, improved format: this time it has a convenient index! A good tool to escape from the mires of *eterna komencanteco*. Second edition 1999. 235p. 215x140. Bound. USA. ISBN 0-939785-04-8

BEI001 \$15.00

BELA PLANEDO, LA, *Charlotte KOHRS*. This booklet presents a surprising amount of material, focusing on the most useful expressions needed by beginners. Illustrations were done by children, which lends a charming authenticity to the familiar sentiments of international friendship. Published by Children Around the World. 1992. 16p. 215x140. Paper. USA.

BEL005 \$1.00

DEKLARO PRI SENDEPEND-ECO/DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Trans. Edwin GROBE. One of the most important documents in modern political history, the "Declaration" is admired as much for its brilliant prose style as for its radical content. Professor Grobe has wisely printed the original text of Jefferson on facing pages, so that readers are reminded of the genius of this crucial manifesto. A good learning tool for the serious translator. 1999. 10p. 215x135. USA.

DEK007 \$1.10

ELEKTITAJ VERKOJ, *Aleksandr PUSKIN*. Div. trans. Of course we all know the name of Pushkin, but how many of us have read any of his works? Here's your chance! Selected and translated by Russians who love this poet and understand his importance in the world of ideas. These translations capture Pushkin's spirit better than any English rendering can. Includes lyric poems, long poems, dramas, fables and prose. 1998. 240p. 215x145. Paper. Russia. ISBN 5-7161-0054-6

ELE002 \$11.40

HEJMA VORTARO, *Jouko LINDSTEDT, ed.* How many times have you encountered a situation where a seemingly common word is missing from your vocabulary in Esperanto, or Spanish, or even English? This book is designed to fix that. Almost five hundred household words, mostly from the kitchen and the nursery, are given in Esperanto, English, Finnish, French, Hebrew, Spanish, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian and Swedish. Fun for budding poly-

glots! 1999. 62p. 210x145. Paper. Netherlands. ISBN 92-9017-065-4

HEJ002 \$9.70

IVAN LA MALSAĜULO, *Lev TOLSTOJ*. Trans. V. A. ŠIROKOV. Illustrations by TAKEHANA To. Although Tolstoy is best known for his massive novels, this quaint and easy little story does no harm to his reputation as a giant of world literature. Devils abound and trick hapless humans in this archaic morality play. Perfect for intermediate-level students of Esperanto. Many charming woodblock-style prints. Second, revised edition 1998. 78p. 210x150. Paper. Japan. ISBN 930785-45-6

IVA001 \$8.10

KIEL (MAL)VENKIGIESPERANTON? (ELEKTITAJ METODOJ DE KANGURUO). An amusing collection of wise satires about how (not) to present Esperanto, how (not) to recruit new students, etc. Quite funny. Long unavailable, a small stock of this booklet has recently resurfaced. 20p. 200x135. Paper. USA.

KIE009 \$1.50

MAIGRET HEZITAS, *Georges SIMENON*. Trans. Daniel LUEZ. The protagonist Maigret is not a superman caricature like Sherlock Holmes, but rather a fully developed complex man whose very ordinariness helps him to resonate with the criminal mind and thereby solve subtle problems. Simenon is not as well known outside of France as he deserves. 1999. 128p. 200x140. Paper. Russia.

MAI001 \$8.20

A POUND OF BOOKS

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We have accumulated many old and out-of-print books which need and deserve new homes. No difficult decision to make, and there's a guaranteed surprise! You can easily add to your Esperanto library, or buy the perfect holiday gift for somebody else who loves Esperanto books. Just send in this little form with \$2.00 in cash, check, money order, or credit card information. Your name and address ought to appear as an address level on the obverse: please correct any wrong information. Limit of one pound of books per person. Offer ends January 15th, 2000.

MARIONETOJ, *Carmel MALLIA*. Discover how widely the Muse of Esperanto spreads her inspiration: even to the tiny island of Malta! This is actually two collections of poems: "Rapsodie" and "Akrostike", which display rather different styles and themes. This is the latest from Eldonejo Bero, which has been quietly but energetically producing an acclaimed series of poetry books. 1999. 62p. 215x135. Paper. USA. ISBN 1-882251-28-8
MAR001 **\$4.40**

NOVELOJ EL ANTIKVA ĈINIO. Div. trans. What a range of stories! There are ghost stories, heroic tales, court intrigues, rustic legends, romances, etc. Something for everyone. All written in clear and simple style. Experience the richness of ancient Chinese culture, while being transported to a distant place and time. 1998. 554p. 200x140. Bound. China. ISBN 7-5052-0336-3
NOV008 **\$30.00**

SPIRITO DE ESPERANTO KAJ LA "SAMIDEANAJ" MALAMIKAĴOJ, *Ignat BOCIORT*. A passionate yet well-reasoned plea for friendliness and mutual toleration between Esperantists in the face of the backbiting, ego-battles and factionalism which alltoo often plagues the Esperanto community and many other groups of well-intended like-minded people. Winner of an award in the UEA "Belartaj konkursoj". 1999. 12p. 210x150. Paper. Netherlands.
SPI002 **\$1.90**

TRI CETERAJ NOVELOJ, *Mark TWAIN*. Trans. Edwin GROBE. Professor Grobe is obviously having fun in this task of locating and translating little-known gems of American literature. I rather doubt you've ever read "The Eskimo Maiden's Romance" or "Cannibalism in the Cars" or "Luck". Well, you should have! Now's your chance. You'll be glad you did. 1999. 22p. 215x174. Paper. USA.
TRI016 **\$1.90**

TRINOVELOJ, *Sherwood ANDERSON*. Trans. Edwin GROBE. Yet another collection of undeservedly obscure short-stories rescued and brought to light in sparkling translation. Professor Grobe has been quite busy: how many of you have been able to read as quickly as he has been translating? Time to catch up! 1999. 26p. 215x174. Paper. USA.
TRI017 **\$2.10**

VALSO POR AMIKOJ, *Ĵomart kaj Nataŝa*. The latest batch of songs from this famous duet shows how they continue to develop their masterful blend of folk, swing and jazz roots, displaying their well-known vocal harmonies. A sweet melancholy feeling predominates, with a bit of joy and hope as spices. High quality sound: not at all amateurish. 1999. CD+texts. Sweden.
VAL001 **\$20.10**

ESPERANTO IN PHONE BOOKS

This year's edition of the Budapest telephone book includes a full column of information about how to use the Hungarian telephone system. In addition to Hungarian, this information appears in English, German, French, Italian, Russian and Esperanto. It is hoped that this will serve as a model for other cities and countries, which might increase their use of the international language for international communication. [from *ret-info*]

RADIO

There are now several on-line radio stations in Esperanto and a growing archive of past programs. Links to the whole collection can be found at <http://osiek.org/aera>. There you can also find frequencies and times of regular radio broadcasts, as well as contact addresses of those in charge of foreign language broadcasts. (It always helps to send a "thank-you" card! -ed.) [from Bruno Masala; ✉ ttt@osiek.org]

VIRTUAL POSTCARDS IN ESPERANTO

NetCard, the largest e-mail greeting card company in Brazil, has announced that their service will allow a choice of Esperanto as the language of the greeting and the instructions received with the greeting. <http://www.netcard.com.br>. [from *ret-info*]

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